

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

BACKPLANE WIRE AND NOISE ELIMINATOR TUBE

An optical switch for switching data in a network. The switch includes a housing. The switch includes a transmitter receiver means which transmits to or receives from the network the data. The transmitter receiver means is disposed in the housing. The first optical path forms a first closed optical loop along which the data flows in a first direction. The switch includes a second optical path forming a second closed optical loop along which the data flows in a second direction. The second direction is opposite the first direction. The first and second optical paths each having a portion in which the transmitter receiver means is inserted into or removed from the first and second optical paths without disruption of switching of data by the switch. A method for switching data in a network.

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